



Office of the Senior Vice President for
Health Affairs and Dean, College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
P.O. Box 670555
Cincinnati, OH 45267-0555

CARE/Crawley Building
3230 Eden Avenue
(513) 558-7333

House Finance Committee
Chairman Jay Edwards & Ranking Member Jeff LaRe
March 29, 2023

Proponent testimony HB 33

Andrew T. Filak Jr., MD, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Christian R. Holmes
Professor and Dean, College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati

Chairman Edwards, Vice-Chairman LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the House Finance committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 33 regarding the clinical teaching lines for Ohio's medical schools. I am Dr. Andrew Filak, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the College of Medicine with the University of Cincinnati. UC serves over 46,000 students across 14 colleges and 414 areas of discipline. We are leading public urban universities into a new era of innovation and impact. Our faculty, staff, and students are saving lives, changing outcomes, and shaping the direction of our city, region and state.

Founded in 1819, the University of Cincinnati's College of Medicine is the first medical school in the State of Ohio. UC's College of Medicine holds a vision to be indispensable through excellence in education, research, and patient care. Faculty, staff, and students work together in spirit of collaboration, inclusion, and service to advance knowledge through innovative research and to improve health and well-being through patient-centered care.

Medical Education and Research

The UC College of Medicine has had a strong impact on medical education and research. The College created one of the first academic-based certificate programs in telehealth in the nation. Patient-focused technologies increasingly integrate telecommunications, information systems, personal computing and more. Additionally, the College of Medicine is one of the few medical schools in the country with baccalaureate programs. The Medical Sciences Program prepares students for careers that include: Medicine (MD/DO/MD+PhD), Optometry, Physician Assistant, Dentistry, Pharmacy (PharmD), Public Health, Health Administration and Biomedical Sciences. A student entering the College of Medicine can choose their courses to prepare them best for careers among these pathways. The program graduated its first students in 2018. Baseline Resident Assessment of Clinical Knowledge, or BRACK, was piloted at the college in 2011 and designed to gather data on incoming residents' knowledge to help inform patient care and safety on day one of clinical service. And in 2008, the College of Medicine became the first U.S. medical school to adopt the Multiple Mini Interview system, a more holistic approach for medical student selection emphasizing humanistic skills and qualities.



Impactful Research Developments

Physician scientists and biomedical researchers at the College consistently are on the forefront of medical discovery. Some recent examples include:

- The development of an anti-cocaine antibody for humans that may help block the effects of cocaine and aid individuals battling drug addiction to stay in recovery.
- Creation of a drug called AB569 which kills a bacterium (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*), one of the most serious pathogens that exhibits multidrug resistance and virulence and leads to more than 35,000 deaths in the U.S. annually.
- The development of a highly promising cancer treatment called SapC-DOPS, a combination of a cell protein, SapC, and a phospholipid, DOPS, that assembled into tiny cavities can selectively target cells and deliver cancer therapies while sparing all other unaffected cells and tissues.
- Serving as the national coordinating center for all U.S. clinical stroke trials funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS).

Economic Impact

The College of Medicine has a substantial and profound economic impact on the Greater Cincinnati region. It supports 1,221 full- and part-time staff positions and an additional 1,786 faculty positions, two-thirds of which are clinical faculty, and psychologists and advanced practice providers, who provide health care to the region.

Ohio medical schools train the majority of physicians who practice in our state and are a critically important piece of the pipeline for Ohio's healthcare needs. Our goals include improving Ohioan's access to high quality, economical, and compassionate healthcare and ensuring that medical students of all backgrounds are prepared to exceed and excel to meet the needs of healthcare in Ohio.

HB 33

HB 33 provides significant support through the Ohio Department of Higher Education for clinical teaching and initiatives designed to address specific health care needs of Ohioans.

Each of Ohio's public colleges of medicine receives direct support for clinical teaching. This is core higher education funding for Ohio's medical colleges used to offset the significant costs of providing real-world clinical education, primarily to third- and fourth-year medical students.

The State's support for clinical teaching addresses an essential component of our delivery of medical school education in that it funds the "clinical classroom" experience for our students. Medical students engage in required rotations in our own academic medical centers, partner teaching hospitals, and community clinical settings in areas that include family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine, surgery and psychiatry. In addition to supporting our medical student learners, the funding also supports clinical experiences of nursing, pharmacy, and physical and occupational therapy students.

The Clinical Teaching Subsidy funding at UC also goes to support our simulation programs that are essential to medical education. We use Standardized Patients (actors who function as patients) to teach interviewing and communication skills, and the essentials of the physical examination. We use task trainers and other simulation mechanisms to teach procedural skills such as phlebotomy and lumbar puncture, so students learn how to do these properly before

performing them on patients. We use advanced mannequins and other devices to teach students how to resuscitate patients performing CPR and airway management and how to function as a member of a team in crisis management settings. These are all costly programs that are essential to the clinical education of medical students and provide for better and safer patient care.

We support the 3 percent annual increase included in HB 33 for these clinical teaching lines. This will defray the increased costs associated with incorporating students in clinical settings and helps restore funding that had been reduced over the last decade. These funds are critical to the training of our students in rural and underserved areas, provides training in family medicine, grows primary care, and supports the care of elderly Ohioans. In summary, these clinical teaching lines support the education of our students in critically important areas.

The College of Medicine appreciates the long-standing support the Ohio General Assembly has provided Ohio's medical schools. The resources invested have a direct impact not only on our students but on the health of Ohioans as we prepare the next generation of physicians. We further appreciate the investment Governor DeWine and Ohio Department of Higher Education Chancellor Gardner recommended in higher education. HB 33 makes an impactful investment in the State Share of Instruction (SSI), with annual increases of 3 percent in each fiscal year. Of this amount, 6.41 percent is set-aside for the Medical II model, which is distributed to Ohio's six public medical schools to support education of medical students. With inflation rates of 4.7 percent and 8.0 percent in calendar years 2021 and 2022, respectively, the 3.0 percent increase in SSI and the Medical II model helps us fulfill our missions to educate the next generation of Ohio physicians and improve the health of those we serve.

On behalf of the University of Cincinnati, I support maintaining this metric and formula-driven funding that continues to produce results benefitting the people of Ohio and urge you to support the funding levels provided for these programs in HB. 33 as introduced.

Thank you, Chair Edwards and members of the committee, for the opportunity to provide testimony.